

**PUBLIC COMMENTS ON FEDERAL GRANTS AND  
CONTRACTS RELATED TO THE FEDERAL FOOD, DRUG,  
AND COSMETIC ACT**

**CHAPTER 749**

H.B. No. 1846

**AN ACT**

**relating to public comments on federal grants and contracts related to the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act.**

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:*

SECTION 1. Subchapter K, Chapter 431, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Section 431.250 to read as follows:

*Sec. 431.250. PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR FEDERAL GRANTS AND CONTRACTS.*

*(a) The department shall annually solicit comments from interested persons regarding the grants and contracts the department has requested from or entered into with the United States Food and Drug Administration for implementing the federal Act and its amendments, including the Food Safety Modernization Act (21 U.S.C. Section 2201 et seq.).*

*(b) The department shall solicit comments by posting on the department's Internet website a detailed description of and providing notice to interested persons of each grant and contract described by Subsection (a) requested or entered into during the previous year. The description and notice must include the benefits to this state, the department, the regulated community, and the public.*

*(c) The department shall respond to questions and comments about a grant or contract described by Subsection (a) to the best of the department's knowledge. If an interested person requests that the department decline to receive future federal funding from the grant or contract, the department shall consider the request and determine whether the benefits of the grant or contract outweigh the person's concerns.*

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

Passed by the House on May 5, 2015: Yeas 145, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting; passed by the Senate on May 26, 2015: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved June 17, 2015.

Effective September 1, 2015.

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**EXEMPTIONS FROM CONTINUING EDUCATION  
REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**CHAPTER 750**

H.B. No. 1879

**AN ACT**

**relating to exemptions from continuing education requirements for certain county commissioners.**

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:*

SECTION 1. Section 81.0025(e), Local Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(e) This section does not apply to a county commissioner who:

- (1) serves in a county with a population of 1.3 million or more;
- (2) meets at least one of the following requirements:
  - (A) has served continuously for 12 years or more; or

*(B) is an attorney licensed to practice law in this state for 12 years or more and has completed at least 64 hours of continuing education approved by the County Judges and Commissioners Association of Texas; and*

*(3) attends at least 15 hours of staff briefing on continuing education subjects in each 12-month period as approved by the County Judges and Commissioners Association of Texas.*

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

Passed by the House on April 30, 2015: Yeas 136, Nays 3, 1 present, not voting;  
passed by the Senate on May 26, 2015: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved June 17, 2015.

Effective June 17, 2015.

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## ESTABLISHMENT OF A REGIONAL CENTER FOR PUBLIC SAFETY EXCELLENCE IN THE RIO GRANDE VALLEY

### CHAPTER 751

H.B. No. 1887

#### AN ACT

**relating to the establishment of a regional center for public safety excellence in the Rio Grande Valley.**

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:*

SECTION 1. Subchapter F, Chapter 130, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 130.093 to read as follows:

*Sec. 130.093. REGIONAL CENTER FOR PUBLIC SAFETY EXCELLENCE. (a) In this section:*

*(1) "Commission" means the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement ("TCOLE").*

*(2) "Regional center" means the regional center for public safety excellence established under this section.*

*(b) The regional center for public safety excellence is established to develop and provide education and training for law enforcement personnel in the Rio Grande Valley, including:*

*(1) education and training leading toward an associate of applied science degree or certificate or another public safety or law enforcement-related associate degree or certificate;*

*(2) TCOLE officer certification; and*

*(3) a continuing education certification.*

*(c) South Texas College shall administer the regional center in partnership with political subdivisions and participating school districts in the Rio Grande Valley. The headquarters of the regional center are located at South Texas College in Pharr, Texas. The regional center may use property and facilities at other locations in Hidalgo and Starr Counties.*

*(d) In developing its training programs and courses, the regional center shall ensure that the program or course curriculum satisfies any requirements imposed by the commission under Subchapter F, Chapter 1701, Occupations Code, for the regional center to operate as a commission-approved training provider under that chapter.*

*(e) The regional center may solicit and accept gifts and grants from any public or*